

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has raised various drawing concerns and in answer to all of those concerns, a replacement set of drawings is being submitted with each individual sheet being marked as a “replacement sheet”. As the Examiner will understand, some of the individual replacement sheets do not include any changes or revisions. However, as requested by the Examiner, an entire set of replacement drawings is being submitted and for completeness, each sheet of the prior set, whether revised or not, is being submitted as a “replacement sheet”.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

With regard to the specific changes requested by the Examiner in the February 2, 2007 Action, the various elastomeric elements (reference numerals 14, 57, 59, 72 and 81) were all originally illustrated with cross hatching for plastic material. The “problem” that the Applicant thought the Examiner had with the drawings pertained only to the drawing quality of his set of drawings. To the extent that the drawing set reviewed by the Examiner did not have sufficient image quality for the Examiner to see the cross hatching, the cross hatching was enhanced as much as possible for the five (5) elastomeric members mentioned. It has now been clarified that the original cross hatching and the enhanced cross hatching were mistakenly for plastic and should have been for rubber. The replacement set of drawings now includes the proper cross hatching for rubber for items 14, 57, 59, 72 and 81. The affected drawings are FIGS. 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14.

With regard to the issue concerning element 13T in FIG. 5, that particular call out has been eliminated from FIG. 5 since it is well detailed and described in other drawing figures.

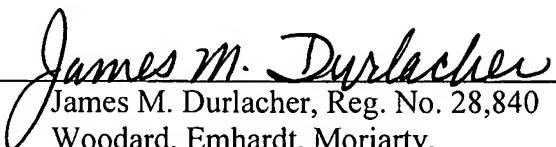
The Examiner’s objection with regard to having a figure without a figure number, specifically referencing elements 23S and 23, Applicant’s best guess is that somewhere in the processing, the bottom half of FIG. 2A was chopped off. However, the Examiner has a complete copy of FIG. 2A and thus the only issue seems to be the Examiner’s authority to actually discard a sheet of paper that might otherwise appear to relate to a pending file. This is another reason to submit, by mail, a complete replacement set of drawings so that

any issue, in terms of chopped off illustrations or partial illustrations, will be resolved. In this regard, if the Examiner is not typically entitled to review the original paper transmission, it might be advisable to do so.

With regard to the “drawing” issue raised by the Examiner with regard to illustrating every feature of the invention specified in the claims, it is Applicant’s position that the Examiner’s ruling in this regard is incorrect. During a brief discussion with the Examiner by the undersigned attorney of record, it appears as if the Examiner is attempting to interpret the literal language of the claims in a more narrow manner than what the claims actually state. The Examiner explained that this was the reason for requiring more details and specificity in the form of defining in the specification each term set forth in the claims. The Examiner explained that if the claims would be given their broadest possible meaning, based on the literal language, the indication of allowability would be withdrawn and additional searching conducted.

Since Applicant believes that the request by the Examiner with regard to this particular matter is not consistent with the MPEP, the Examiner should take whatever further action he believes to be appropriate under these circumstances. If that means re-opening prosecution and conducting additional searching, then that is what the Examiner should do.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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